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CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**COUNTRY East Germany REPORTTOPIC Military Information from Cottbus 25X1EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT 7 January 1954 25X1DATE OBTAINED RED 25X1

REFERENCES 25X1

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REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. On 6 December 1953, the Sachsendorf Kaserne, Cottbus, was occupied by about 225 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery and tank insignia. [redacted] little training activity in the barracks area. Between 25 November and 6 December, up to 60 recruits engaged in the construction of field fortifications, including foxholes, on several days. Five T-34/85 tanks [redacted] engaged in driving practice, were repeatedly observed in the training area near the autobahn. [redacted]

2. On 6 December, the Hermann Loens Kaserne was occupied by about 1,800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia. Up to 120 troops engaged in the construction of field fortifications and about 5 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] practiced driving in the training area. [redacted] large pneumatic rafts on trucks in the installation. The AAA emplacement in the southeast corner of the installation was occupied by only 1 x 37-mm AA gun. Two armored four-wheel AA machine gun carriers were seen in front of the southernmost vehicle shed. [redacted]

3. On 6 December, the Dissenchen Kaserne was occupied by about 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and tank insignia. [redacted] construction work at the training area adjoining the installation was pushed forward. About 25 high lookout posts and 2 firing lanes had already been completed. On 6 December, up to 200 troops engaged in the construction of field fortifications and 2 T-34/85 tanks were observed in the barracks area. During the period under review, up to 120 troops received individual drill and formation drill in the barracks yard. [redacted]

4. On 6 December, the Alvensleben Kaserne was occupied by about 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with artillery insignia. [redacted] Large sheds were under construction. Four 76-mm field guns were stored in the barracks area as previously. [redacted]

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5. At about 5 p.m. on 2 December, a shipment of about 30 T-34/85 tanks passed through the Cottbus railroad station, coming from the direction of Frankfurt/Oder and proceeding toward Leipzig.

6. [] four Soviet officers married German girls after 1 December. These officers allegedly will stay in Germany after their discharge. It was rumored that Soviets who marry German girls will be discharged. A total of 125 apartments were made available in the Sandow suburb for Soviet families, who were expected to arrive in Cottbus after 1 January 1954 and, allegedly, were dependents of younger officers stationed in Cottbus. A quartering building of the Sachsenhof Kaserne, which had been separately fenced in, was to be vacated for female personnel and/or Soviet dependents.⁴

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1. [] Comment.

[] the 69th Mecz Regt of the 5th Mecz Div and the 100th Mtrcl Bn, respectively. There are almost no indications for engineer units in the Hermann Loens Kaserne. The 82d Engr Bn is carried in the Sachsenhof Kaserne.

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2. [] Comment. The 71st Mecz Regt can be carried in the Dissendon Kaserne as previously. []

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3. [] Comment. After the return of the divisions from the summer exercises, the Alvensleben Kaserne has been lightly occupied. It is, however, undetermined, whether artillery units of the division engaged in firing practices at Weisswasser in early December. The construction of large sheds tends to indicate that an additional occupation of the installation, if not yet made, may be planned. The 1719th AAA Regt possibly is to transfer to this installation. This regiment, in June 1953, vacated the Fuhrer Kaserne, which was turned over to the KVP, and, since then, the regiment could not yet be located in the Forst Tauer training area and the Cottbus post.

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4. [] Comment. Except for the marriages between Soviets and German girls mentioned in paragraph 6, the information is confirmed by similar observations at other posts.

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